



ALSTON-WITH-GARRIGILL  
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

A N N U A L R E P O R T  
O F T H E  
M E D I C A L O F F I C E R O F H E A L T H  
F O R 1966

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TO THE  
CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE  
ALSTON-WITH-GARRIGILL  
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

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Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my report as Medical Officer of Health for the year 1966. I wish to thank the Public Health Inspector for his assistance in preparation of my report.

Yours faithfully,

JOHN R. MASSAN,

Medical Officer of Health.



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REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR  
ALSTON-WITH-GARRIGILL RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL  
FOR THE YEAR 1966

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SECTION A

VITAL STATISTICS

Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area

Area .. .. .	36,971 acres
Population .. .. .	2,060
Number of inhabited houses according to the Rate Book.	
Alston Ward .. .. .	546
Nenthead Ward .. .. .	192
Garrigill Ward .. .. .	129
Total	<u>867</u>
Rateable Value (1st April, 1966) .. ..	£47,954
Penny Rate Product .. .. .	£185

COMMENT.

Despite the trend in rural areas, namely, depopulation and an imbalance of numbers of deaths over births the figures for this district in 1966 are satisfactory. The estimated population has remained steady over the past three years and the death rate approaches the national figure for the first time in many years. The birth rate is much lower than the national one but it is well to realise that another four births would have brought our figure up to the average; such are the discrepancies when dealing in small numbers and relating them to a rate per thousand.

There were 89 cases of measles during the year. Vaccination against this disease is now available but is not being offered routinely for a number of reasons. The number of children and adults seeking protection against diphtheria, whooping cough, tetanus, poliomyelitis and small pox was good. There are no members of the community suffering from tuberculosis.

In general of great significance is the intention to build a new housing estate. This, with the proposal of expanding industry, and the increase in the number of places for apprenticeship for the young gives a real and strong impression that the future and prosperity of Alston Moor is assured and brighter than it has been since 1946.

I should like to thank the Chairman and Members of the Committees for their continued interest and support.

										<u>1966</u>	
<u>LIVE BIRTHS</u>										M	F
Legitimate	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	14	10
Illegitimate	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	3
										<u>28</u>	

										M	F
<u>STILL BIRTHS</u>											
Legitimate	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	-	-
Illegitimate	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	-	-
										<u>-</u>	

										M	F
Deaths of infants under 1 week of age										-	-
"	"	"	"	4 weeks	"	"				-	-
"	"	"	"	1 year	"	"				-	-
										<u>-</u>	

ANNUAL BIRTH RATE per 1,000 estimated population

For this area	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	13.6
For Cumberland	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	16.3
For Rural District of Cumberland	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	16.0
For England and Wales	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	17.7

										M	F
<u>DEATHS</u>										10	13
										<u>23</u>	

ANNUAL DEATH RATE per 1,000 estimated population

For this area	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	12.3
For Cumberland	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	12.3
For Rural District of Cumberland	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	12.3
For England and Wales	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	11.7
Deaths from Paerperal Causes	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Nil

SECTION B

(1) PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE AUTHORITY

Medical Officer of Health (Part-time)  
 John R. Hassan, M.B., Ch.B., D.R.C.O.G.,  
 Cottage Hospital,  
 ALSTON

Public Health Inspector  
 R. W. Thomas, M.A.P.H.I.,  
 Town Hall,  
 ALSTON

- (2) (a) LABORATORY FACILITIES  
 The Pathological Laboratory of the Cumberland Infirmary, Carlisle supplies a complete range of service under this heading.



(b) AMBULANCE

I am glad to report that the Ambulance and Sitting Car Service give every satisfaction in comfort and warmth and speed.

(c) CLINICS AND TREATMENT CENTRES

Consultant Services are available at Carlisle and Newcastle. Physiotherapy is available on two mornings each week at the Cottage Hospital. Maternity and Child Welfare Clinics are held weekly at the Cottage Hospital provided of course by the Cumberland County Council. The School Dental Clinic is held one day a fortnight at the Cottage Hospital.

It is regretted that there is now no General Dental Practitioner Service, nor is there any immediate prospect of acquiring one. I estimate that there is about two days work a week for anyone interested.

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S E C T I O N C

WATER SUPPLIES

Following instructions laid down in the Ministry of Health Circular, 1/65

(a) The quality of the water supplied through the water mains was satisfactory. The various springs from which the supplies are derived are land springs in carboniferous limestone. The spring at Killhope, Nenthead has a fairly high iron content which causes slight discolouration under normal circumstances but the discolouration becomes pronounced when the flow through the mains is interrupted in some way.

As indicated in my last report, the Eden Water Board extended the Garrigill water supply to the farms and cottages along the South Tyne Valley, and this main was eventually joined up with the Alston water supply at the foot of the Wardway.

(b) Two Type A.H.W.M. reagent feeders are installed at Springfield, Alston and one at Killhope, Nenthead. Iron in suspension causes difficulty in maintaining the Nenthead machine in working order.

(c) None of the water supplies are liable to plumbo solvency.

(d) Action taken in the event of contamination is covered by (b) above.

(e) No. of dwelling houses supplied	(1) direct to houses	695
	(2) by standpipes	7
No. of population supplied	(1) direct to houses	1942
	(2) by standpipes	13

SEWERS AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

Three centres of population are served by public sewers. At Alston and Nenthead the works comprise of screens, detritus chambers, settling tanks, rotary filters and humus tanks. Garrigill is served by settling tanks and the effluent disposed of by land irrigation.

REGISTERED COMMON LODGING HOUSES

There are none in the district.

PUBLIC CLEANSING

PUBLIC CLEANSING  
Taking into account that the outside staff of this Councils consists of three men and the fact that this is a rural district, a weekly collection of refuse for the three main villages can be regarded as satisfactory. In some remote areas a fortnightly collection is made and in more remote areas a monthly collection. Approximately 90 per cent of the district is served.

My remarks with regard to salvage collection still apply, but possibly if we were to combine with other authorities some form of collection could be undertaken.

## SANITARY POSITION OF THE AREA

Number of inspections	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	593
Nuisances report	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
Nuisances abated by informal notices	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
Informal notices	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	NIL
Statutory notices	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	230
Number of houses inspected	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	-
Number of houses disinfected	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	NIL
New houses erected (Local Authority)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
New houses erected (Privately)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	25
Plans submitted	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	21
Plans approved	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Number of sewer connections	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
Number of water connections	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	-
Houses demolished	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	-
Houses closed	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	-

## FACTORIES

FACTORIES  
(i) Inspection for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by the Sanitary Inspector),

<u>Premises</u>	No. on register	No. of inspec- tions -	No. of written notices	No. of Occupied properties
(i) Factories in which Sec. 1, 2, 3, 4 & 6 are to be enforced by Local Authority.	4	1	-	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Sec. 7 is enforced by the Local Authority.	13	13	-	-
(iii) Other premises in which Sec. 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers premises)	-	-	-	-
	17	14	-	-
(ii) Cases in which defects were found .. .. .	..	..	..	NIL



OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT, 1963

The number on the register remained at 30 and all premises were visited at least once during the year.

No notifications of accidents were received.

SECTION DHOUSING

Progress during the year with local authority housing was disappointing although a start was made on the erection of four two bedroomed flats at Nenthead.

At Alston, the Council was beset with difficulties at almost every turn, the proposed scheme in the process being reduced from 42 dwellings to 38 and negotiations had to take place in order to have adequate road widths without spoiling the layout of the site.

At the year end we were still having discussions with the County Surveyor's Department and consequently planning permission was not obtained until 1967,

POST WAR HOUSING

Council houses completed at the end of 1965	..	..	...	..	153
Privately owned houses	..	..	..	..	20

Estimated number of houses unfit for habitation which cannot be made fit at reasonable cost	..	..	..	..	35
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Number of houses overcrowded	..	..	..	..	7
Total number of applicants for Council Houses	..	..	..	..	53

IMPROVEMENT GRANTS

Number of privately owned houses for which Improvement Grants were sought	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3
Number of applicants for Grants approved	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3
Number of Improvements completed	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
Improvement Grant total	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	£439

STANDARD GRANTS

Number of Standard Grant applications granted	..	..	..	..	4
Number of Standard Grant work completed	..	..	..	..	7
Standard Grant total	..	..	..	..	£732.3.2.

SECTION EMEATSSlaughterhouses

One privately owned slaughterhouse was operated satisfactorily during the year.

The quality of beasts, etc. has been very high and the only meat found to be unfit was a small percentage of offal - 9 livers affected by fluke worm.

There was no evidence of *Cisticercus Bovis*.

The throughput for the slaughterhouse for the year was :

Cattle	129	Sheep	468
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MILK

Number of retailers 8.

Again attention is drawn to the condition of milk bottles. The public are largely to blame as often there are long delays before the empty bottles are returned to the dairyman. Also care on all sides should be taken to prevent the chipping of the necks of bottles and chipped bottles should NOT be used.

CATERING ESTABLISHMENTS

Again the various establishments have been satisfactory. They are as follows :

	Licenced Hotels	Temperance Hotels	Snack Bar	Fish & Chip Shop	Total
Alston	5	1	2	2	10
Nenthead	1	-	-	-	1
Garrigill	1	-	-	-	1

The total number of lisedced premises are as under :

Alston ..	..	..	8
Nenthead ..	..	..	3
Garrigill ..	..	..	1
			<u>12</u>

Premises registered under Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955,

Making sausages and pressed meats .. .. .	2
Premises registered for the sale of ice creame <u>only</u> ..	10

RECORD OF FOOD VOLUNTARILY SURRENDERED DURING 1966

	Tins	lbs.	ozs		Tins	Lbs.	ozs.
Cooked Ham	1	11	0	Corned Beef	5	3	12
Tongue	1	6	0	Meat Loaf	1		12
Stewed Steak	3	3	14 $\frac{1}{2}$	Pork and Ham	1		12
Soups	2	1	9 $\frac{3}{4}$	Salmon	1		3 $\frac{3}{4}$
Pears	10	14	1	Peaches	17	30	2 $\frac{1}{2}$
Grapefruit	13	14	14	Raspberries	3	2	13
Pineapples	10	10	13	Oranges	2	1	5
Tomatoes	6	6	9	Peas	2	1	15
Syrup	3	3	0	Jam	1 Jar	1	0
Evaporated Milk 3 tins 6 pints							

SECTION FINFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

Measles .. .. .	89
Poliomyelitis vaccination	
Primary .. .. .	114
Completed .. .. .	29
Booster .. .. .	225
Smallpox vaccination .. .. .	15
Triple Antigen	
Primary .. .. .	30
Completed .. .. .	28
Booster .. .. .	87

CAUSE OF DEATH	Sex	Total all ages	Under 4 weeks	4 weeks and under 1 year	AGE IN YEARS									
					1-	5-	15-	25-	35-	45-	55-	65-	75+	
					M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
12. MALIGNANT NEOPLASM, BREAST	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
14. OTHER MALIGNANT AND MALIGNANT NEOPLASMS	M	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
17. VASCULAR LESIONS OF NERVOUS SYSTEM	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
	F	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
18. CORONARY DISEASE, HEART	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
20. OTHER HEART DISEASE	M	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
21. OTHER CIRCULATORY DISEASE	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
23. PNEUMONIA	M	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-
	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
25. OTHER LESIONS OF RESPIRATORY SYSTEM	M	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
29. INFECTIONS OF RESPIRATORY	M	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
32. OTHER DISTINCT AND ILL-IDENTIFIED DISEASES	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL ALL CAUSES	M	10	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	3	-	5
	F	13	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	2	10

